

Natural Resources Conservation Service CONSERVATION

Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Associated Ag Land

Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
Screening level: Permanent ground cover $> 90\%$ and slope $< 10\%$. Assessment level: The water erosion rate is $<=$ T.	Yes	No	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met	
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No 🗌	
All non-traffic areas are vegetated.	Yes	No	
Wind Erosion			
Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	iteria Met	
Screening level: Permanent ground cover $>$ 90% and slope $<$ 10%. Assessment level: The wind erosion rate is $<=$ T.	Yes	No	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met	
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No 🗌	
All non-traffic areas are vegetated.	Yes	No 🗌	



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Classic Gully Erosion

	Planning Criteria		eria Met
	Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No
St	reambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No



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Soil Quality Degradation

Organic Matter Depletion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil organic matter depletion is not a problem AN activities do not cause soil organic matter depletion. Assessment le Ground cover meets state criteria specific to ecological site.	100 100
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The areas integrated with trees are covered with leaves, needles, fit woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 80 percent of the area. The topsoil is not displace Woody residue is being added to the forest floor through branch breakage and treefalls.	е 100 🗀
Compaction	
Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities on not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: Compaction managed to meet client's production and management objectives.	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Soil compaction is limited to roads and landings. Tree root growth not impeded. No more than 15 percent of the forested area is devot to roads, trails, and landings.	



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Excess Water

Runoff and Flooding and Ponding

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Water runoff from hard surfaces, such as building roofs, is controlled to the point that is does not cause erosion or large streams of water.	Yes No No



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Water Quality Degradation

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criter	ia Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10% AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition >= 5 AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is <= T AND wind erosion rate is <= T.	Yes N	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test	Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few	Yes N	No 🗌
places where concentrated runoff flows through.		



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Elevated Water Temperature

Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	teria Met
Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the site are not designated by a State Agency as a temperature impairment OR water course temperature is not a client concern. Assessment level: The SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is $>= 5$ AND the SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score is $>= 5$ AND the SVAP2 - canopy cover element score is $>= 6$, OR existing conservation practices are in place to address water temperature.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation To	est Met
More than 50 percent of the water surface is shaded on the length of the stream/river you control.	Yes	No 🗌



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Air Quality Impacts

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Activities are not present that contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions AND episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift have not occurred. PM producing activity examples are: Prescribed Burn is conducted, Travel ways unpaved or treated with binding agents, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, Pesticides are applied, Fertilization (manure/ commercial), CAFO/manure management). Assessment level: PM and PM Precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
	Dust is controlled on all non-vegetated, unpaved travel ways.	Yes	No 🗌
<u>En</u>	nission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
	The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the	Yes 🗌	No 🗌



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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. Assessment level: Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources AND plant damage from wind erosion is below Crop Damage Tolerance levels.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health.	Yes	No
Inadequate Structure and Composition			
	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Plant communities support the intended land use and desired ecological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	The current plants provide the desired habitat structure and composition.	Yes	No 🗌
	The forest or woodlot is fully tocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation	Yes	No



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Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
	Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met	
	Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.	Yes	No 🗌	
	The current plant composition prevents outbreak of non-desirable species.	Yes	No	
W	Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation			
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met	
	Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test		
	A hazardous fuel reduction treatment has occurred or will occur.	Yes	No 🗌	



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<u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>

Inadequate Habitat - Food

Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	riteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Test Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
Existing plants provide food for the chosen declining, threatened, or endangered wildlife species < see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes	No 🗌



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Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Me	
	Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	All stream banks show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No 🗌
	Plant growth provides cover/shelter that benefits threatened, endagered, or declining wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No
<u>In</u>	adequate Habitat - Water		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Assessment level: The WHSI rating is $>= 0.5$ AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is $>= 7$, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR water is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	Access to water is at the right height, depth and time of year for wildlife species.	Yes	No 🗌



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Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	iteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.	Yes	No
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes	No 🗌
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌



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Inefficient Energy Use

Equipment and Facilities

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
	Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes	No
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations			
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
	Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes	No